

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 13 & 14 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102 3s being unpatentable over the Smith when viewed in combination with the newly cited patent to Kay. However, no basis exists for the Examiner's contention that it would be obvious to incorporate a honeycomb spacer part into Smith's airfoil and to cause liquid adhesive to diffuse into the open ends of the hollow chambers of the incorporated honeycomb for the following reasons.

Applicant's process is for producing a compound motor vehicle component with an outside skin formed of a finished surface component, an inside layer and a honeycomb structural spacer part that contains hollow chambers that have open ends facing the finished surface component and a glass fiber mat. The finished surface component is into a first half of a molding tool, the glass fiber mat is inserted into a second half of the molding tool, with a liquid adhesive layer being to the glass fiber mat in second mold half and to the surface-finished component in a first mold half. Thereafter, the spacer part is inserted between the adhesive layers while the adhesive layers are still liquid, so that closing of the first and second mold halves presses the compound motor vehicle component into its final shape and diffuses the adhesive into the open ends of the hollow chambers of the spacer part, with the adhesive then being set. Such a process is totally unsuggested by either of the applied references no matter how they might be viewed in conjunction with each other since neither reference discloses joining of a finished surface component and a glass fiber mat to opposite sides of a honeycomb structural spacer part with adhesive layers on the finished surface component and a glass fiber mat diffusing into and setting within hollow chambers of the spacer part during press shaping of the compound motor vehicle component.

Instead, Smith teaches applying layered fiberglass skins 17, 18 which are impregnated with an epoxy resin on opposite sides of a closed cell foam core 10 and then setting and bonding the skins to the core while pressing the impregnated skins against the core. The primary difference between Kay and Smith is that a honeycomb sheet 6 inserted between two foam sheets 5 & 7 in Kay instead of using a solid foam core as is done by Smith. However,

like Smith, Kay joins his component skin 11 to the foam of his core by setting of facings while they are pressed against the foam core and not against Kay's honeycomb 6.

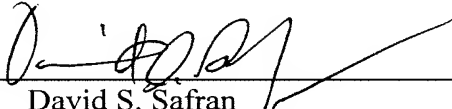
Furthermore, no adhesive is diffused into the Kay's honeycomb 6, and instead, the cells of the honeycomb are filled with the closed cell foam of one or both of the foam sheets either by a force being "applied to the foam sheets so that the honeycomb penetrates the foam until both sheets of foam are in contact" (col. 4, lines 23-26) or by "the honeycomb sheet is compressed into first one foam sheet and then the above described foam-honeycomb-foam sandwich is made by compressing the still exposed side of the honeycomb into the second foam sheet" (col. 4, lines 41-45). Thus, the only logical combination of the Smith and Kay teaches would be to substitute Kay's foam-honeycomb-foam sandwich core construction for Smith's solid foam core. However, nothing in Kay's disclosure would suggest eliminating of the foam used by both Smith and Kay so that their outer skins would be bonded to the honeycomb with adhesive that has been applied to the outer skins diffusing into the cells of the honeycomb as is the case for the present invention (compare Figs. 2 & 3) and as is the result of the last three steps of claim 1. In fact, the Examiner has not even addressed this distinction between the present invention and the applied prior art in his rejection. Moreover, there is nothing that would even suggest that a construction as results for the present applicant's claimed process would be suitable for Smith's and Kay's purposes.

Therefore, for all of the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection based upon the Smith and Kay patents is in order and is hereby requested. Furthermore, in the absence of new and more pertinent prior art being discovered, this application should now be in condition for allowance and action to the effect is requested.

While this application should now be in condition for allowance, in the event that any issues should remain after consideration of this response which could be addressed through discussions with the undersigned, then the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned by telephone for that purpose. In this regard, if the only obstacle to passage of this application for issuance as a patent is the presence of the withdrawn claims, then those claims

may be cancelled by Examiner's Amendment subject to applicant's right to file a divisional application with respect thereto.

Respectfully submitted,

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